

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 PM-03

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /051 W

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R 221307Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2610

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 1275

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM, E.),

SUBJ: TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

MANILA PASS SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY

1. IN MY JUDGMENT, SECRETARY SIMON'S APRIL 21-22 VISIT TO SRI LANKA WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE IN PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND SUBSTANTIALLY ADVANCED U.S. INTERESTS IN SRI LANKA.

2. THE FIRST AMERICAN CABINET MEMBER TO VISIT COLOMBO IN ALMOST TWO DECADES, THE SECRETARY WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH IMMEDIATE AND CLOSE RAPPORT WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE, WHO IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN POWER FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS AND WHO PLACES GREAT STOCK IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. BY CONVEYING DIRECT ASSURANCES OF FORD ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN WELFARE AND PROGRESS OF HER COUNTRY, HE WAS ABLE TO REINFORCE, UNDER A NEW ADMINISTRATION, THE TOP-LEVEL TIES WHICH MRS. BANDARANAIKE HAD DEVELOPED WITH NIXON ADMINISTRATION. THESE TIES, IN MY VIEW, CAN BE VALUABLE ASSET IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EFFORTS TO HOLD BANDARANAIKE GOVERNMENT ON MODERATE COURSE AS IT

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PREPARES TO HOST NEXT YEAR'S NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT.

3. I AM VERY GREATEFUL TO SECRETARY SIMON FOR
CHANGING HIS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE IN ORDER TO INCLUDE
SRI LANKA IN HIS ITINERARY.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB01275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750141-0058
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750426/aaaaaxrw.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA MANILA PASS SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY
TAGS: OVIP, (SIMON, WILLIAM E), (BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006